

Where to look for advice?

By Elise L. Moore, C.S.

Where do we look for advice? There's no lack of sources! Friends, books, parents, teachers, ministers, tea leaves, the horoscope, our own inner feelings.

Sometimes we decide which advice to take based on whether we agree with it or not. If others support our opinion, it must be good advice! This results in much self-justification and poor decision-making.

Does this mean all our options are wrong? Far from it. But there is a standard for making decisions that is more reliable than just doing what we want to do or feel like doing.

God is the one source of advice that is always correct. God's options are unselfish. God wants only the best for us. God's will is a blessing not just for today but for always.

God is talking to each one of us 24 hours a day. Divine Mind is speaking directly with messages specific to your particular situation and experience. Divine Mind speaks to your human consciousness with words and feelings that you can understand. The Bible calls God's messages to us the still, small voice. We hear this voice of God when we quiet human opinions, our own and others.

So what happens if we hear God's direction and we don't want to do it? That happened to Jonah. God told him to go to Ninevah. Jonah caught the first boat to Tarshish. From that moment on it seemed to Jonah that his life was one big storm. He ended up in a whale of a problem until he repented and was willing to do what God told him to do in the first place.

If our lives are filled with one problem after another, it's God's advice we need to be listening to. As Jonah said, "When my soul fainted within me I

remembered the Lord...” (Jonah 2:7) Willingness to do the will of God gives us a second opportunity to obey His direction.

Just after my parents built their house, my baby brother became very ill. Although my parents were praying diligently, the situation worsened until one night it seemed he was passing on. My mother walked the floor all night with him in her arms, praying to know him as God’s perfect child. In the morning she sat down on the sofa to read the Bible lesson. She asked God what it was she needed to know. An audible voice spoke to her which she felt was the voice of God. “It’s the furnace.”

She immediately turned off the furnace and called my dad at work. He contacted a furnace repairman. They rushed to the house. The repairman discovered that the flue for the gas furnace had been completely blocked by cement and debris. The level of carbon monoxide in the house was so high that he assumed the family hadn’t been living there since the atmosphere was deadly toxic. We had lived there a month. The chimney flue was fixed, my brother recovered immediately and all was well.

God’s messages are more than advice. God’s thoughts protect, save, heal. It is Christ speaking directly to us with exactly the thought needed for that moment. Let’s not settle for human opinions when we can listen for divine Mind, God.

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